Amendment to the claims:

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the damaging effect of a hypochlorite salt-containing solution on a soft fabric article, comprising the steps of:

(a) modifying the solution by adding an alkali metal hydroxide to the solution, such that the weight concentration ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide over the hypochlorite salt in the modified solution is no less than 1:12.5,

wherein the modified solution consists ~~essentially~~ of the hypochlorite salt, ~~and~~ the alkali metal hydroxide, and water; and

(b) contacting the modified solution with a stain on the soft fabric article for at least one minute to remove the stain.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide, and the hypochlorite salt is sodium hypochlorite.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite in the modified solution is no less than 1:10.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite in the modified solution is no less than 1:5.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite in the modified solution is no less than 1:2.5.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite in the modified solution is no less than 1:1.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the modified solution includes at least 0.2 weight percent of sodium hydroxide.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the modified solution includes at least 0.3 weight percent of sodium hydroxide.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the modified solution includes from about 0.5 to about 3 weight percent of sodium hydroxide.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, comprising the step of contacting the modified solution with the stain on the soft fabric article for at least five minutes to remove the stain.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, comprising the step of contacting the modified solution with the stain on the soft fabric article for at least fifteen minutes to remove the stain.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stain is a menstrual fluid stain or an underarm perspiration stain.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the soft fabric article comprises cotton.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the damaging effect of a hypochlorite salt-containing solution on a soft fabric article, comprising the steps of:

(a) modifying the solution by adding an alkali metal hydroxide to the solution, such that the pH of the modified solution is at least 11.8, wherein the modified solution consists ~~essentially~~ of a hypochlorite salt, ~~and~~ the alkali metal hydroxide, and water; and

(b) contacting the modified solution with a stain on the soft fabric article for at least one minute to remove the stain.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the pH of the modified solution is at least 12.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the pH of the modified solution is at least 12.5.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the pH of the modified solution is about 13.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 14, comprising the step of contacting the modified solution with the stain on the soft fabric article for at least five minutes to remove the stain.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 14, comprising the step of contacting the modified solution with the stain on the soft fabric article for at least fifteen minutes to remove the stain.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide, and the hypochlorite salt is sodium hypochlorite.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the modified solution comprises at least 0.5 weight percent of sodium hypochlorite.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the modified solution comprises at least 1 weight percent of sodium hypochlorite.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the modified solution comprises at least 2 weight percent of sodium hypochlorite.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the modified solution comprises at least 5 weight percent of sodium hypochlorite.

25. (Currently Amended) A kit useful for removing a stain from a soft fabric article, said kit comprising:

a cleaning composition which consists ~~essentially~~ of water and an effective amount of a hypochlorite salt and an alkali metal hydroxide, the weight concentration ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide over the hypochlorite salt being no less than 1:12.5.

26. (Original) The kit according to claim 25, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide, and the hypochlorite salt is sodium hypochlorite.

27. (Original) The kit according to claim 26, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite is no less than 1:10.

28. (Original) The kit according to claim 26, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite is no less than 1:5.

29. (Original) The kit according to claim 26, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite is no less than 1:2.5.

30. (Original) The kit according to claim 26, wherein the weight concentration ratio of sodium hydroxide over sodium hypochlorite is no less than 1:1.

31. (Currently Amended) A kit useful for removing a stain from a soft fabric article utilizing a hypochlorite salt-containing solution, said kit comprising:

a first compartment which consists ~~essentially~~ of a sodium hypochlorite solution; and

a second compartment which consists ~~essentially~~ a sodium hydroxide solution.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the damaging effect of a hypochlorite salt-containing solution on a soft fabric article, comprising the steps of:

(a) modifying the solution by adding an alkali metal hydroxide to the solution, such that the weight concentration ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide over the hypochlorite salt in the modified solution is no less than 1:12.5, and wherein said modified solution consists of the hypochlorite salt and the alkali metal hydroxide; and

(b) contacting said modified solution with a stain on the soft fabric article for at least one minute, thereby effectuating removal of the stain while reducing the damaging effect of said modified solution on said soft fabric article.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the damaging effect of a hypochlorite salt-containing solution on a soft fabric article, comprising the steps of:

(a) modifying the solution by adding an alkali metal hydroxide to the solution, such that the pH of the modified solution is at least 11.8, and wherein said modified solution consists of a hypochlorite salt and the alkali metal hydroxide; and

(b) contacting said modified solution with a stain on the soft fabric article for at least one minute, thereby effectuating removal of the stain while reducing the damaging effect of said modified solution on said soft fabric article.

34. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said cleaning composition is free of chelating agents, phosphorus-containing salts, surfactants and abrasive agents

35. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said cleaning composition is free of chelating agents, phosphorus-containing salts, surfactants and abrasive agents

36. (New) The kit according to claim 25, wherein said cleaning composition is free of chelating agents, phosphorus-containing salts, surfactants and abrasive agents

37. (New) The kit according to claim 31, wherein said cleaning composition is free of chelating agents, phosphorus-containing salts, surfactants and abrasive agents